

1     What is claimed is:

2     1.    A lancet device comprising:

3     a)    a housing, said housing including an at least partially  
4           open interior;

5     b)    a cocking seat defined in said housing;

6     c)    a lancet moveably disposed at least partially within said  
7           open interior and including a piercing tip;

8     d)    a biasing assembly engaging said lancet;

9     e)    said lancet including an engagement element;

10    f)    said cocking seat structured to engage said lancet at said  
11          engagement element and retain said lancet against a force  
12          of said biasing assembly;

13    g)    a release element structured to at least partially  
14          disengage said engagement element from said cocking seat  
15          such that said potential energy of said biasing assembly  
16          moves said lancet relative to said cocking seat and drives  
17          said piercing tip of said lancet at least temporarily into  
18          a piercing orientation; and

19    h)    said engagement element including a single use pivot  
20          structured to render said engagement element inoperative to  
21          retain said lancet on said cocking seat after said release  
22          element disengages said engagement element from said  
23          cocking seat.

24    2.    A lancet device as recited in claim 1 wherein said cocking  
25          seat is stationary relative to said housing.

- 1        3.    A lancet device as recited in claim 1 wherein said cocking  
2            seat is structured to move said lancet into releasing  
3            engagement with said release element.
- 4        4.    A lancet device as recited in claim 1 wherein said release  
5            element is structured to be exteriorily actuated so as to  
6            disengage said engagement element from said cocking seat.
- 7        5.    A lancet device as recited in claim 1 wherein said single  
8            use pivot is structured to be deformed upon said release  
9            element disengaging said lancet from said cocking seat so  
10          as to prevent repositioning of said lancet in engaged, pre-  
11          fired relation with said cocking seat.
- 12       6.    A lancet device as recited in claim 1 wherein said single  
13          use pivot is defined by a breakable hinge structured to  
14          break upon said engagement element being disengaged from  
15          said cocking seat by said release element, thereby  
16          preventing re-use thereof.
- 17       7.    A lancet device as recited in claim 6 wherein said  
18          breakable hinge is defined by a reduced thickness section  
19          of said engagement element.
- 20       8.    A lancet device as recited in claim 1 wherein said cocking  
21          seat comprises a ledge defined in said housing.